

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-09
NEA-10 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 EPG-02 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04
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INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD, FI

SUBJECT: FINLAND'S GATT PARTICIPATION AND THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
COMMITTEE

REF: GENEVA 2705

1. MISSION HAS FOR SOME TIME BEEN CONCERNED THAT IT HAS
BEEN NECESSARY FOR U.S. TO COME DOWN VERY HARD ON FINLAND
IN THE GATT. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE IN THE MANY WORKING
PARTIES ON FINLAND-EAST EUROPEAN AGREEMENTS, AND THE WORKING
GROUP ON EXPORT INFLATION INSURANCE. WE HAVE, FOR
SUBSTANTIVE REASONS, BELIEVED IT NECESSARY TO DO SO IN
THESE INSTANCES AND ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO RECOMMEND
TO WASHINGTON THAT WE DO THE SAME WHENEVER NECESSARY.

2. AS NOTED IN REFTTEL, FINLAND'S ANNUAL ARTICLE XII CONSUL-
TATION WITH THE GATT BALANCE OF PAYMENTS COMMITTEE IS DUE
MAY24. GATT DOCUMENT BOP/172 OF MAY 4, 1977 CONTAINS
FINLAND'S SUBMISSION TO BOP COMMITTEE. DESPITE A SERIOUS
DISREGARD FOR GATT BOP PROVISIONS BY MANY COUNTRIES
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(SPAIN, NEW ZEALAND, ARGENTINA) AND SPECIAL WORKING
PARTY TREATMENT ON BOP MATTERS FOR OTHERS (EX ITELY),
FINLAND HAS DUTIFULLY HEWED THE ARTICLE XII LINE.
FINLAND IS, IN FACT, THE ONLY DEVELOPED COUNTRY REGULAR-
LY SUBMITTING TO BOP COMMITTEE DISCIPLINES - THIS AT
A TIME WHEN BOP PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN A SOURCE OF CONCERN
IN THE COMMITTEE, THE COUNTIL, AND THE CG-18. ALSO, FINLAND'S

JUSTIFICATION FOR LEGITIMATE APPLICATION OF RESTRICTIONS
HAS GENERALLY REMAINED VALID DESPITE SOME IMPROVEMENT
IN TRADE BALANCE IN 1974.

3. WE URGE THAT THE U.S. BE HELPFUL TO FINLAND DURING
THE MAY CONSULTATION - MORE HELPFUL EVEN THAN MIGHT BE
NECESSARY IN THE LIMITED BOP COMMITTEE CONTEXT-AND THAT
WE SUPPORT A COMMITTEE CONCLUSION THAT, WHILE URGING
RELAXATION OF RESTRICTIONS WHEN POSSIBLE, STATES THAT
THE FINNISH RESTRICTIONS ARE FULLY JUSTIFIED. OF COURSE,
WE SHOULD STILL ASK SEVERAL WELL-FOUNDED QUESTIONS IN
EACH AREA OF THE EXAMINATION IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE
IMPORTANT WORKING PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE. QUESTIONS
IN THE AREAS OF BOP PROSPECTS, CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION,
AND EXTENSION OF IMPORT CASH PAYMENT SCHEME WOULD BE
PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE.SORENSEN

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